



VILLAGE OF ARDEN

TOWN ASSEMBLY

Town Meeting Minutes



Next Town Assembly for the Village of Arden 7:30 p.m. Gild Hall
2119 The Highway, Arden, Delaware

MOTIONS/RESOLUTIONS PRESENT

5.0 Visitors

Motion#1 - Support for Beaver Valley from Village of Arden

We move to secure from the Village of Arden a letter of strong support for the Brandywine Conservancy's commitment to purchase the two hundred forty (240) acres of land in Beaver Valley, PA adjacent to Delaware's First State National Historical Park. Affiliated organizations include Save The Valley, Beaver Valley Conservancy and Beaver Valley Preservation Alliance.

Motion Passed Unanimously

Motion #2 – Funding Beaver Valley from Village of Arden

We move to approve the donation of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) by the Village of Arden to the Brandywine Conservancy for the sole use of the Beaver Valley Pennsylvania purchase with available funds at the end of fiscal year as determined by treasurer.

Motion Passed 32 to 27

ATTENDANCE

Attendees Sign In – 59 + 2 not signed in (Jeff Politis, Liz Resko) (line 22 & 25 Signed 2x)

Remember when signing in, please **Print your name clearly**, otherwise it will be listed as an unidentifiable signature. Line 0 Illegible signature (copy of sign in sheet Attachment section)

Beverly	Barnett	1		John	Scheffen	32
Ed	Rohrbach	2		Sharon	Simmons	33
Albert	Marks	3		Kevin	Gargan	34
Mike	Curtis	4		Gabrielle	Eisenhouser	36
Julia	McNeil	5		David	Jones	37
Kate	Sayer	6		Mary	Murphy	38
Marvin	Sayer	7		Ray	Seigfried	39
Bill	Theis	8		Dorinda	Dove	40
Alton	Dahl	9		Ron	Ozer	41
Deborah	Ricard	10		Marianne	Cinaglia	42
Warren	Rosenkranz	11		Sue	Rothrock	43
David	Michelson	12		Lisa	Mullinax	44
Gary E	Quinton	13		David D	Claney	45
Carol	Larson	14		Cecilia	Vore	46
Jan	Westerhouse	15		Elizabeth	Varley	47
Carol	DiGiovanni	16		Carl	Falco	48
Tom	Wheeler	17		Barbara	Macklem	49
Ruth	Panella	18		Kelsey	Ransick	50
Sam	Panella	19		Elaine	Hickey	51
Cookie	Ohlson	20		Larry	Walker	52
Laura	Wallace	21		Brooke	Bovard	53
Chris	Rizzo NV	23		Stephen	Harcourt	54
Mick	Fitzharris	24		Mary	Young	55
Grace E	Ressler	26		Denis	O'Regan	56
Jennifer	Borders	27		Rick	Ferrell	57
Walter	Borders	28		Jim	Laurino	58
Toby	Ridings	29		Pam	Politis	59
Sally	Sharp	30		Betty	O'Regan	60
Marcia	Scheffen	31		Randy	Hoopes	61
				Dale	Brumbaugh	22&25

1.0 Call to Order - Chair Jeffrey Politis, called meeting to order at 7:38 P.M.

2.0 Approval of Minutes - September 2016 Town Assembly Minutes approved as presented.

3.0 New Residents - Rick Farrell and his family moved into 1801 Green Ln. His wife is Emily and they have two children Maxwell, seven and Adam, two.

4.0 Recognition of Departed

Katrina Streiff, was an Arden Forest Committee co-chair who had been a longtime advocate of our forests and wildlife, most recently coordinating an annual mushroom foraging walk and spearheading the survey of the Sherwood Forest border. We will miss the way she kept us all on task at meetings – and the cookies. We will miss the cookies. The Forest Committee is developing a plan for a forest grove of edible native species to honor Katrina since it was a special interest of hers.

Richard Little

Richard passed away on December 27th 2016. He was 89. He was born in Wilmington Delaware. With more than fifty years in theatre, movies, commercials, and independent films, Richard played numerous leading roles and garnered years of accolades from theatre critics. With his quick wit and easy manner, he was often sought after as a master of ceremonies. The tallest, funniest and smartest man in the room, Richard could run the Jeopardy board, win any trivia game and sing every song and jingle written between 1930 and 1970. An accomplished portrait to caricature artist.

Comments

*Brooke Bovard spoke about her uncle Dick Little. He was an avid golfer and he was the founder of the Arden Golfer Trophy. In addition, Brooke asked the town to consider Arden Song to be sung at our Town Meetings. Brooke was honored to be asked by Jim to sing at his interment. It is a song that has a lot of importance to many. She would like to hear it sung other than at funerals and interments.

Prof. Charles E. Robinson

Professor emeritus of English literature and a member of the University of Delaware faculty since

1965, died on November 20 at his home in Arden, (wife Nanette, his children, Clare and John Jodi). Prof. Robinson was remembered by colleagues and former students for his dedication to teaching and scholarship and for his kindness, caring and enormous generosity. Many described him as a “star” of the Department of English who epitomized the phrase “a gentleman and a scholar.” He influenced many in the community and gave to all who needed him.

James N Semenick

James was 91, of Arden, passed away peacefully on Nov 20th. He was born and raised in Philadelphia and resided in Arden for over 50 years. Jim was a composer, musician, actor and producer of operas, musicals and plays. He was involved with the Ardensingers, Arden Players Gild, Arden Shakespeare Gild, Brandywiners, and Wilmington Opera Society (precursor to Opera Delaware). He was a WWII veteran, having fought in the Battle of the Bulge. He was an avid gardener, a voracious reader, an excellent cook, and expert entertainer. Jim was a teacher of piano and of life. He will be remembered for his many talents, his huge heart, and his sense of humor

Doris Jean Boller,

Doris was a resident of Ardentown for 40 years including six as a village Trustee, died Aug 27, at Kendal Community in Kennett Sq., Pa where she had lived since 2007. She had been active as a volunteer and in many phases of Ardentown government. She grew up in Thurmont, Maryland. Doris earned a Master’s degree in Social Work from U of P. She moved to Wilmington 1953. Among Doris’s many interests was birding. She volunteered for 17 years for Delaware Museum of Natural History was past president of the Delaware

Ornithological Society. She shared an Ardentown home with Sally Decker, who passed away in Oct 2007, and with whom Doris’s ashes were placed in the Ardentown Memorial Garden.

Roy “Speedy” Dearmon Mullinax (father of Gary Mullinax).

Speedy was born near Statesville, TN, the son of Roy and Ruby Mullinax. He grew up in the Statesville area and moved to Louisville in the 1940’s, where he lived until moving to Ardencroft in 2001. He worked at the famous Brown Hotel in Louisville as a young man and once flipped a

quarter back to Bob Hope for giving him such a cheapskate tip. He went on to hold various jobs in sales elsewhere in Louisville, he was an excellent horse racing handicapper and a lucky one; he bet the winner of the 1947 Kentucky Derby, Jet Pilot, after the horse appeared to him in a dream. He was a regular Delaware Park into his 90's. Speedy was also a longtime youth baseball coach, a savvy card player, a golfer undeterred even by snow and a wonderful husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather.

Barry Wallace (2148 Veale Rd Ardencroft)

He previously lived for 35 yrs. at 1513 Woodland Rd, Ardentown. Husband of Lois Wallace, father of Kiri, Benjamin and Jared Wallace.

Dolores M. Ward

Dolores was 92 years old, a longtime Ardentown resident who passed away on January 2, 2017. She was preceded in death by her husband of 41 years, Charles L. Ward in 1989 and her son Thomas E. Ward in 2015.

A moment of silence

5.0 Visitors –

Buckingham Green's Stream Restoration - Andrew Hays and Donna Shumpert from ForeSite Associates

Overview - They presented a plan last September detailing the stream restoration project and where it was headed. That presentation is available on the town's website at arden.delaware.gov under Forest Committee.

This evening they presented final drawings and plans that were submitted to DNRC two weeks' prior as part of the finalization of the storm water matching grant that the Forest Committee applied for last January. This evening presentation is the conclusion of the project. This presentation is also on the town website at arden.delaware.gov under Forest Committee.

Questions/Comments

Ed Rohrback - He expressed that he really liked the sensitive approach to the problem and he thought it was very well done. He wanted to applaud them for this plan.

Beaver Valley Conservancy - Chris RizzoBackground

Chris Rizzo is a volunteer for the Beaver Valley Conservancy and he is speaking for many affiliated organizations who have been working for five years trying to protect Two Hundred Forty acres in Beaver Valley, PA that was set aside as wild life refuge for fifty or more years. The land is currently under threat for development that would have several major impacts. This land has been recognized as having national historic significance. For more information go to Save the Valley website.

Requesting public support and donations.

Mt Cuba partnered with Brandywine Conservancy to pledge to purchase the land and take it out of the possibility of being developed. There is a short fall in the amount of money that is pledged and they are working with Brandywine Conservancy to fill that gap. The conservancy wants them to demonstrate that there is broad public support for saving this

area. The way they intend to do that is to secure a large number of small donations. The target is one thousand donations by reaching out to various communities and organizations and gain their support from their constituents so they can get a large number of donations. If they obtain one thousand donations, there is a matching pledge.

Questions/Comments

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Motion to Suspend Rules

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Jeff – The agenda item to discuss the possible support from the Village is listed under New Business. Town Assembly **approved Motion to suspend the rules** and move that discussion up to this point.

Guideline - This is not a debatable topic but it is a votable topic.

Motion #1 Support for Beaver Valley from Village of Arden (read twice)

We move to secure from the Village of Arden a letter of strong support for the Brandywine Conservancy's commitment to purchase the two hundred forty (240) acres of land in Beaver Valley, PA adjacent to Delaware's First State National Historical Park. Affiliated organizations include Save The Valley, Beaver Valley Conservancy and Beaver Valley Preservation Alliance.

Discussion - Speak for or against Motion #1 Support for Beaver Valley

Brooke Bovard - In favor.

Brooke believes Arden has a responsibility to be one of the leaders to help protect the land.

Dale Brumbaugh - In Favor.

Dale shared the joy she has experienced walking the trails over thirty years.

Sally Sharp – In Favor.

She treasures Beavery Valley Conservancy. She shared her joy of walking the land and recommends if you've never walked it, you should.

Call the question, seconded

Motion#1 Support for Beaver Valley from Village of Arden Read 3rd time.

Motion #1 Approved Unanimously

Motion #2 - Funding

We move to approve the donation of one thousand dollars (\$1,000) by the Village of Arden to the Brandywine Conservancy for the sole use of the Beaver Valley Pennsylvania purchase with available funds at the end of fiscal year as determined by treasurer.

Modification to motion (accepted and seconded) - available funds at the end of fiscal year as determined by treasurer.

Discussion Motion #2 Speaking for or against motion

Brooke Bovard - Against Motion.

She expressed concern about the Assembly's legal authority to make a donation from of tax money. Not sure if it has to be a budget item and thinks this would provide an audit trail. Jeff - 'The money would come out of contingency, which is approved as needed by the officers to be spent. If approved at Town Assembly and the contingency money is available, then the officers feel confident that they are within the legal bounds.

Ed Rohrbach - Against Motion.

He supports referendum for the whole town to vote on donation.

Ray Seigfried - For Motion.

He expressed he respects Ed's point of view but would like to point out that the decisions we make are predominately made at the Town Meeting. In addition, all committees' chairs continue to make decisions on behalf of the entire Village.

Jennifer Borders - For Motion.

Any precedence to giving a donation to another non-profit organization from the Village? Jeff - The Village donate to Fire companies, the Arden Library and Gild Hall. They are on the budget referendum. She supports referendum for the whole town to vote on donation.

Elizabeth Varley - For Motion.

She believes there is a timeline for the donation and does not think there is leeway to put it on the budget, which won't come up for a vote until next November to be spent the following year. She believes it is a perfect opportunity for the Town to act and she believes it is appropriate to make a contribution to an organization as deserving as this one. She encourages all to vote positively on this.

Bev Barnett - For Motion.

To address time line. They have until May to raise 8 M funds. As of today, 1.73 committed to purchase. In terms of our goal of one thousand donations, we have 173 people donated.

Laura Wallace - For Motion.

Locally we have to start saving our land. She supports our community to donate \$1,000.

Mike Curtis – Against Motion but For Motion.

He believes it should go to referendum. However, there is a Schroder Fund in which he would support it.

Carol DiGiovanni – Against Motion

She feels as though the entire Village should vote.

Alton Dahl wanted to point out that donation is to purchase land and it is not a donation to an organization.

Ruth Panella - For Motion.

She thinks it is an unusual request that they are making but she thinks it is a necessary expense and that is what contingency funds are used for and allocated for. In this instance,

she thinks it could be justified as non- referendum/ non- budgeted because the determination for this land to be purchased was not something that could be put on our budget at that time.

Mary Ann Cinaglia - Against Motion.

Against it due to technicalities. She suggests an alternative by starting another fund and have people make individual donations to that fund.

Ed - Everybody here can write a check directly to Organization.

Sally Sharp - Delaware County pledge half of million dollars and Township pledge two hundred fifty thousand dollars. They are pledging taxpayers' money that is good for all of us.

Brook we have at our disposal the power to call a special Town meeting or issue a special referendum.

Vote

Motion #2 read again

Yes 32

No 27

Abstentions 0

Motion Passed 32 to 27

Bill Theis- In honor of his wife (Deborah) he pledges to match Beaver Valley donations of \$1,000.

6.0 Town Chair - Jeffrey Politis

Communications from the Chair.

Since the last town meeting....

1. We moved into 2017. Happy New Year to Everyone.
2. I continue to communicate with the parliamentarian, Jonathan Jacobs, to better understand our processes. As I mentioned in the last meeting, I have sent him the audio recordings and the meeting minutes from the last three town meetings for his review. I have asked for an opinion about how to improve our minutes as well as comment on our practices in relation to Robert's Rules. I am awaiting his response.
3. Many of you were aware that a house was being constructed at the boundary of the Arden Woods at an address of 5 Mill Race Road. This caused some concern both as the house appeared to be in the flood zone and for potential damage that could be done to the forest. After some investigation from the Forest Committee with help from Arden Resident, Jeff Steen, we found that there were a number of discrepancies between the newest survey that

was being used to approve the building project and others that were done previously. The biggest concern was an approximately 3 feet in elevation between the various surveys – which would imply that the house was indeed being built in the flood zone. We alerted the county and discussed our concerns with the owner of the property. After review, the owner found that their survey was in fact incorrect. At which time, building stopped.

The Village of Arden has an opportunity to purchase this parcel, which has 4 building lots bordering the Arden Woods and the Handby Trust. This purchase would allow Arden to protect its boundary by adding a buffer zone. I am seeking a sense of the community to understand whether the Chair should pursue this opportunity. Note, there are a lot of unknowns and we would need to better understand the specifics before any action would be taken, but I don't want to waste my time if the village is not interested.

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Pause

Communication Report

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Discussion – Non- binding Vote. Purpose is to obtain a sense if Village is interested to purchase the parcel and added it to Forest land.

Elizabeth Varley - Supports pursuing.

She suggests to move forward with the discussions and obtain more information. She thinks it is appropriate to protect our borders. No rush.

Cecilia - Supports pursuing

She thinks the Avery Property is a good model for this purpose.

Jennifer Borders – She wants to know if Schroder funds have been explored as part of funding. Are conservation easements being considered? She encourages not to limit to the four lots but the entire length of Naamans Creek. Jeff – The Schroder funds would be decided by the Village if it were appropriate to use it. The process would have to be changed because the fund at present allows to only spend interest. Jennifer – Avery Property still has a mortgage and does not want to add more debt.

Beverly Barnett - Supports pursuing.

She would hate to see more damage to stream as we dealt with last 20 years.

Ray Seigfried – Supports pursuing

Jeff attended Community Planning meeting with the intent to understand in greater detail about potential opportunity. All four lots can potentially be built on. Intent is to explore possibilities. Community Planning voted to support Jeff in his efforts to move ahead.

Al Marks – Supports pursuing

He wants to remind us that NCC land is at a premium. He would like to protect Arden's borders.

Jeff requested a quick “aye” to show if there is interest for him to pursue. Unanimous Ayes.

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Resume

Communications Report

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4. The Village was contacted by the Delaware Dept. of Justice regarding a FOIA related complaint that the DoJ received. The complaint suggested that the Buzz Ware Village Center Committee conducted an illegal meeting. After discussion with the BWVC committee and

our Attorney, we agreed that the committee acted appropriately and within the bounds of FOIA. We wrote a letter to this effect to the DoJ and await their response.

In addition to addressing the complaint, we have asked the DoJ to sit down with us to review the FOIA laws and how they are applied to the Village. FOIA was created to maintain transparency in government – specifically in representative governments and is important. As Arden is a Town assembly type of government and thus by nature transparent we will seek to reduce some of the burdens of the FOIA rules. For a completely volunteer government, some of the FOIA laws can be overly burdensome and can over the course of time stress our government's ability to operate. I will keep the Village informed of any discussion, however, no meeting is scheduled at this time.

5. Thank you to the Playground Committee for providing refreshments.
6. Lastly, a reminder that this meeting is being recorded and we ask that all comments be made at the microphone.

Let's have a respectful and deliberative meeting. Thanks.

So submitted

Jeffrey Politis

Town Chair, Village of Arden.

Questions/Comments – None

7.0 Trustee Report - Mike Curtis

The Trustees have several items to report this evening.

Finances: We have copies of the quarterly financial report available tonight. The land rent bills are being prepared and will be mailed the first week of February. Land rent is due March 25, 2017.

Mike Curtis prepared the detailed breakdown of the individual land rent bills. Please contact Mike or our assistant, Julia McNeil, if you have any questions about that detailed letter.

The fiscal year of the Trust ends on March 25. Because the computer program used by the accounting firm runs on a month-end basis, no checks are deposited after March 24 at noon. Any land rent checks received after that time will not be deposited until the first week of April.

ADU's: New Castle County code limited the number of ADUs in the county to .2% of all parcels. This quota has been met and no permits are being issued. Legislation has been introduced to increase the number of ADUs but has not been voted on at this time.

Transfers: There has been one transfer since the September Meeting: 1801 Green Lane to Richard and Emily Ferrell.

Respectfully submitted,



Mike Curtis, Arden Trustee

(Trustees Financial Report following minutes in Attachment section).

Questions/Comments - None

8.0 Treasurer Report - David Michelson

David reviewed Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Financial Activity and Statement of Fund Balance as of January 22, 2017.

(copy of Statements following minutes in Attachment section)

Questions/Comments

Cecilia – Report indicated Registration Committee over spent its budget. No receipts have been submitted and all expenses for conducting elections are supposed to be posted to operating expenses for the town. Jeff thought that it was agreed to expense referendum budget expenses to Registration Committee. Need to check on this. Cecilia says that they decided not to do that.

Jeff – Safety budget should show \$2,000 and not \$2,500 with \$500 overbudget.

Denis O'Regan - Pertaining to Safety Committee, how did it come to be that one committee gave to another committee \$500? Safety ran over by 25% of their annual budget?

Why would that not come out of contingencies funds? David – The referendum allows the Treasurer with the Chairs of each committee to transfer monies into their budgets. Denis – Why was there an overage? Jeff suggests we address that answer when Brooke, Chair of Safety, presents her report. Agreed.

Jeff – To add further clarification on the Budget Referendum; each year there is a line that states that the overall budget cannot change but money can move between committees as approved by the Chairs of those committees with approval from the Treasurer.

Treasurer's Report Accepted

9.0 Advisory Committee Report - Steven Threefoot

Jeff read the following:

The Advisory Committee met at the Buzz Ware on Monday, January 2. The Advisory Committee set the agenda for this meeting, identified likely discussion points and motions to be covered at this meeting.

The Registration Committee will present the current status of the March ballot slate.

In general discussion of the Advisory Committee, there was great support for the concept of the Ardens, as a community, in conjunction with the Arden Club, sponsoring refugee families by the

Ardens. Eighteen people attended the initial discussions held at the Buzz Ware with Jewish Family Services (JFS) of Delaware on how the system works. Another 19 people have expressed their interest in participating via email. Frank Jost and Judith Kay McClintock are working together to be the contacts from the community with JFS. What was made clear by JFS does its best to match the refugees with the communities to best serve the refugees. The refugees can come from anywhere around the world, and will not all be from Syria.

Finally, the yard signs were not placed through the village for this meeting. This was a result of the Advisory Chairperson not taking care of this business. The signs should be distributed prior to future meetings.

Respectively submitted,

Steven Threefoot, Advisory Chair

Jeff – The main purpose of the Advisory Committee Report is to have the Registration Committee present current status of the March ballot slate.

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Pause Advisory Report

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Committee Elections – Cecilia Vore

The Registration Committee will conduct the Election of Officers and Standing Committees at the March Town Assembly. The election will be held by secret ballot at the beginning of the meeting, and voting will continue throughout the meeting. Residents whose primary residence is in the Village of Arden and are 18 years or older on the night of the election are eligible to vote. Residents can request an absentee ballot by submitting an Affidavit by March 20. The Affidavit is available at the meeting tonight, at the Town Office during regular office hours, or it can be downloaded from the town website.

Committee nominees are invited to visit the town website and post comments about themselves and the ways they can contribute to the committees. This will help voters become familiar with

candidates and with the committees themselves. Simply go to arden.delaware.gov and click on “Nominees.”

Committee & Officer Nominees March 23, 2017

Archives: Maria Burslem, Barbara Macklem, Lisa Mullinax, Grace Ressler, Beth Stevenson

Audit: Laura Wallace, Jean Mullin

Budget: Denise Nordheimer, Warren Rosenkranz

BWVC: Debbi Sheiker, Toby Ridings, Denis O'Regan, Mary Young, Sharon Simmons

Civic: Mick Fitzharris, Harold Kalmus, Liz Resko, Rick Smyth, Melissa Wellington

Community Planning: Ron Meick, Ray Seigfried, Sally Sharp, Mary Young, David Jones, Denise Nordheimer

Forest: Jill Althouse-Wood, Jennifer Borders, Carol Larson, Elizabeth Varley, Dela Bryan, Chris Junk

Playground: Kevin Gargan, Kim Griffith, Eric Braunstein, Ruth Panella

Registration: Barbara Henry, Mary Murphy, David Nordheimer, Mark Wood, Jan Westerhouse

Safety: Brooke Bovard, Chris Junk, Tegan Harcourt, Rowan Harcourt-Brooke, Rick Ferrell

Questions/Comments

Carol DiGiovanni - Posted?

It will be on website and a draft ballot will also be there.

Ruth Panella – add her name for nominee for the Playground Committee.

Respectfully,

Cecilia Vore, Chair, Arden Registration Committee

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Resume Advisory Report

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Advisory Report Approved

10.0 Board of Assessors - Denis O'Regan

This year's Board of Assessors are Mike Curtis, Warren Rosenkranz, Denis O'Regan, Sue Rothrock, Kate Threefoot, Joe del Tufo, and Pam Politis.

Mike convened an organizational meeting on December 6th and we have all signed the Oath. I was elected Chair, and Sue as Secretary. There were no discussions about assessment issues or facts. We agreed to hold meetings on the second Wednesday of the month at 7:30 at the Buzz Ware Village Center. There are additional meetings in May and June, with the last one cancelling, if our work has been completed prior to that date. The dates are:

Jan. 11, 2017	May 10, 2017
Feb.8, 2017	May 24, 2017 Public Hearing
March 8, 2017	June 14, 2017 Public Hearing
April 12, 2017	June 21, 2017 hold date for possible extra meeting

At present, we will be approaching the assessment in two ways.

- One is the Community Standard of Living approach, with topics discussed, as follows:
 - February - Location Factors
 - March - Lot Size
 - April - Domiciles
 - May - Prudent Reserve and Calculate Total Land Rent
- Also, Mike has presented and will continue to explain an assessment he believes is a portion of what the land could be rented for — providing the same total revenue as the community standard of living approach.

The Public Hearings are an opportunity to share your opinions on assessment issues. All meetings are open, and we welcome you to attend to hear the discussions.

Submitted,

Denis O'Regan, Chair

Questions/Comments

Lisa Mullinax - requested list of all public meeting so she can post in Arden Page.

Sue Rothrock - the dates are posted to Village website arden.delaware.gov.

Mike Curtis – Announced that Georgist Gild will have presentation the next day in which he will review his assessment.

11.0 Committee Report.

11.1 Safety - Brooke Bovard

Welcome to midwinter, from the Safety Committee.

Thanks partially to the mild weather, the Safety Committee has been unusually busy this winter. We have installed no parking signs to remedy a long-standing issue at the stretch of Orleans between Harvey and The Highway. We continue to replace and resurface signs and poles that don't meet code. We investigated the signage issue at the corner of Orleans and Millers and established all signage is legally installed, and we continue to upgrade and bring into compliance signs around the village.

We have been in communication with DelDOT in reference to traffic control and unsafe conditions on Harvey Road and at the corner of Harvey and Marsh. We encourage everyone to contact your county councilman, John Cartier, your state Representative, Bryon Short, and your State Senator, Cathy Cloutier, to tell them of your concern around traffic safety, particularly at the Harvey/Marsh intersection. Please let a member of the Safety Committee know when you have done so, and the response.

Arden suffered, as did the neighboring areas, from some package theft during the holiday season.

Please be aware of trucks and strange cars in your environment.

We would like to thank Al Marks for his many services to the committee. We are sad to see him go.

His position, as well as two regular positions on the committee, will be filled at the March elections.

Volunteers to run are welcome, and the public is always welcome to our meetings.

The Safety Committee wants to thank both the officers and the Community Planning Committee who helped the Safety Committee with our budget. We'd also like to thank the community for approving our budget. Doing something takes more money than doing nothing.

Please be aware of the need to park legally on your leasehold during snow season. We will enforce the ordinances. Also, if you are near a fire hydrant, keep it clear.

Finally, an update on a resident who was presented briefly here. Rex the rescued rooster, the luckiest chicken ever born, has been successfully rehomed at a hobby farm in Maryland. Picture attached.



For the Safety Committee, Brooke Bovard, Chair

Questions/Comments

Question presented under Treasurer's Report in reference to \$500 overage and transfer of funds to cover Safety Committee shortage, explanation deferred till after Safety Committee Report:

Brooke Bovard - Budget made a mistake. Two committee members with different tasks both referred to budget amount listed as available and based on that amount listed they spent the money resulting in an overage. The Treasurer was not aware of overage because receipts were not

submitted in a timely manner. After consultation with town officials and committee chairs Community Planning transfers funds to Safety Committee. Brook said they will be on it next time. (It is a transfer of funds with receipt in one fiscal year and repayment reflected following fiscal year)

Dave Claney - All signs on Marsh and Harvey are responsibility of state.

Approved Safety Report

11.2. Registration- Cecilia Vore

Fall 2016 Elections

The Registration Committee conducted the **2017-18 Budget Referendum and election of the Board of Assessors for 2017**. Ballots were counted on Thursday, Nov. 3, 2016. To our

best calculation, there were 355 residents eligible to vote in these elections. We received 238 valid envelopes containing ballots and 2 invalid envelopes; There was 67% participation.

Under the rules for approval, the budget needed 178 “yes” votes to pass. There were 180 votes to approve the entire budget, 3 votes to disapprove the entire budget, 51 ballots with itemized disapprovals; the entire budget passed.

Specific disapprovals for each item were posted on town website and bulletin boards immediately following the election. They are also included in this report, but I’m not going to read them here.

Ask me if you want details.

Individual Disapproval

Advisory Committee	2	Safety Committee: General	21
Archives	5	Safety-Speed Enforcement	23
Board of Assessors	1	Buzz Ware Support	8
Budget Committee	1	Donations - ACRA	4
Capital Fund	20	Donations - Arden Page	1
Civic Committee	15	Donations - Arden Library	6
		Donations - Fire	
Community Planning	1	Companies	2
Forest Committee	15	Donations - Arden Club	9
Playground Committee	27	Contingencies	19
Registration Committee	0		

The following residents were elected to the Board of Assessors in this order: Mike Curtis (convener), Warren Rosenkranz, Denis O'Regan, Sue Rothrock, Kate Threefoot, Joe del Tufo, and Pam Politis. Thank you to David Gerbec, David Michelson, Mike Opelka, Gary Quinton, John Scheflen, Bill Theis, Tom Wheeler, Mark Wood and Mary Young, who were also willing to serve and allowed their names to be placed in nomination.

Many thanks to Jacqi Tanzer, Danny Schweers, Steven Threefoot, Mark Wood and Jan Westerhouse for observing and assisting with the vote count.

All election records and final tallies are filed in the Town Office in the Registration Committee's binder of election records. Actual ballots are kept for one year.

Comments/Questions - None

Registration Report Accepted

11.3 Playground - Jim Laurino

The playground committee has been inactive since October 2016 because, for a variety of reasons, there has not been a quorum. This will be addressed tonight.

We believe the playgrounds are OK for now, they are not used much in this season.

We did take down one swing at the East end of the Green, where the chain had been damaged. We will replace this with a child swing soon, we have the parts and are just waiting for better weather.

To complete the terms of our state grant, we need to set up a sign by the new slide. We expect to have something like the one placed by the labyrinth.

The mulch area around the swings on the Sherwood Green is slightly short of what it should be. We plan to enlarge this in the spring while we renew the mulch there.

The next playground committee meeting is on Thursday 2 Feb at 7:15 PM at the Buzz.

After this report is accepted, the Registration Committee will conduct an election to replace those committee members whose terms will continue for another year.

Questions/Comments

Carol DiGiovanni - April 7 special meeting and April 26 are not posted to Town website. Wants to know when they will be posted to website or can she receive a hard copy. Jeff will look into that. Carol wanted to know when Jeff will get back to her. Jeff - Two weeks.

~

Pause

Playground Committee Report

~

Registration Committee - Cecilia Vore

Procedure is for the Committee to nominate someone to fill out term. Then present to Town Assembly to be confirmed or not. Also, call for nominations from the floor.

Playground Committee needs to be restarted up again.

Two vacant positions at present.

Nominee, Larry Walker will fill out the term of Katrina Streiff which runs to March 2018.

Nominee Approved.

Nominee, Carl Falco, will fill out Mick Fitzharris position.

Nominee Approved.

~

Resume

Playground Committee Report

~

Playground Report Accepted

11.4 Forest - Carol Larson

A treasured member of our committee, Katrina Streiff, died in December. We hope to dedicate the restoration of an area of the forest where we will encourage native edible plant species. This was a particular passion of Katrina's. We miss the passion and intelligence

she brought to us. Contact the Forest Committee if you'd like to contribute to the effort, our first push will be to control the invasive plant species.

We nominate David Jones to fill the vacancy. He has a degree in Wildlife Management, with courses in Forestry and Botany. He worked for Department of Parks and Recreation of DNREC in Environmental Education, studied native plants at Mt. Cuba Center, and has volunteered for invasive plant removal.

We finished the Surface Water Management Planning Grant and submitted final invoices for payment. We now have complete construction documents for the restoration as shown by ForeSite Associates in the visitors presentation.

In the next phase this spring, we apply for Community Water Quality Improvement Grant for implementation of the plan. Since municipalities are not eligible this round, we will be looking for a financial partner to sponsor this plan. Nature Conservancy, or the Conservation District. The Forest Committee has pre-construction tasks of reducing the invasive plant species in the area and procuring a construction easement.

We have a new path through the 5-acre annex to the bus stop on Marsh Road organized by Matt Kempinski as his Eagle Scout project. This one includes a bridge.

We continue to monitor invasive plant cover, encroachment, hazard trees, etc. We will meet on Saturday, February 25 at 10 pm for a weed war down at the end of Woodland Lane.

Next Forest Committee meeting is Wednesday, February 15 at 5 pm at the Buzz.

Nominating David Jones for Forest Committee. Approved

Questions/Comments - None

Forest Report Accepted

11.5 Community Planning - Ray Seigfried

- **Vacant House Ordinance**

This year there were 6 identified potential vacant houses in Arden during the 2016 period. Letters have gone out to them as defined in the Ordinance. Dwellings that are determined to be vacant will need to register by the end of January.

- **Transformation ad-hoc sub-committee**

This subcommittee of Community Planning is facilitated by Pam Politis and Carol Larson. They are working out process for reviewing transformational projects. Anyone interested in joining them please see them after the meeting.

- **Arden Stewardship for the Greens**

Community Planning is working with the Trustees and Town Chair to develop standards for the use of the Greens. Our goal will be to establish guidelines of how our common Green are used and develop an inclusive process.

- **Community Gardens and Memorial Gardens - No report**

Questions/Comments - None

Community Planning Report Accepted

11.6 Civic - Al Marks, Ed Rohbach

The committee finished up road work for the year in October.

We removed four trees on the Sherwood Green that were shading and therefore effecting the output of the solar panels on the roof of the Buzz Ware.

We are planning to plant new trees that will not grow tall enough to shade them.

We are also pruning trees on all the greens, and removing some unwanted brush and weeds. This work is not yet complete.

We replaced a street sign on the corner of Inn Lane and Woodland that had fallen down.

We are still working to solve the drainage problem at the Field Theater and we are planning to repave and improve the walkway and center aisle.

Arden had a small snowfall this quarter and the roads were plowed once.

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for February 7th at 7:30 PM at the Buzz Ware Village Center.

Respectfully submitted

Edward Rohrbach, Co-Chair

Questions/Comments

Carol DiGiovanni – Tree needs trimming located in Community Garden. Ed - no one has asked us to trim it.

Civic Report Accepted

11.7 BWVC - Walter Borders, Denis O'Regan

The Buzz Ware Committee has a number of items to cover this evening. We will cover •
Community programs

- Financial status
- Meter for solar panels
- Peddlers, Potions and Practitioners Holistic Market Place

Community Programs:

As a reminder, the Buzz sponsors a number of classes (i.e., Strength & Mobility twice a week and a Yoga class on Saturday morning), regular programs (i.e., Coffeehouse, Art on the Town, Group Motion, the Georgist Group, Monday night art class), and other special events. Interest and financial support for these programs continues to be strong. If you have an idea for a special event or would like to organize an ongoing program, please go to our website www.ardenbuzz.com – and submit a “Community Event” request form.

Financial:

As of January 16, the Buzz Ware's operating budget is positive by approximately \$1,300. Overall, we are not in bad shape from an operating perspective. If you know of anyone looking for a unique place to hold a private party, a workshop, or a special event, please let them know about The Buzz. As was reported in the September town meeting, the exterior renovation was completed on time and budget. The committee will soon be creating a list of repair projects with less complexity for the 2017 fiscal year. The renovation fund now has approximately \$540.00.

Meter for solar panels:

The meter for the solar panels has been installed. With this revenue grade meter, we will be able to accurately report the electricity produced. It is hoped that solar credits will produce an annual revenue of ~\$2000/year for the next 10 years and ~\$650/year for the following 10 years for a total of ~\$26,500.

Peddlers, Potions and Practitioners Holistic Market Place:

Planning has already begun for our 12th annual Peddlers, Potions and Practitioners Holistic Market Place at the Arden Fair. This is our one and only fundraiser. Last year was our most successful to date, raising \$6,937. All the income collected goes directly into our Buzz Ware Village Center renovation fund. If you or someone you know is interested in vending on September 2nd please contact Toby Ridings, our vendor relations coordinator. If you are interested in volunteering to help stage the event please contact Randy Hoopes, our volunteer coordinator. The Planning Committee is forming now. More details at www.ardenbuzz.com BWVC Website: The website has had problems since Saturday 14 January. They are being looked at.

Concluding Remarks:

The Buzz continues to look for new ways to support the Ardens. We do ask, if you observe something in or around the facility you find of a concern, or if you simply have a suggestion for facility improvements at the Buzz Ware, please contact a committee member, or go to the Buzz

Ware website under “Contact”. You can make comments, submit an idea for a community event or volunteer. Again, we want to thank all those that volunteer their time and resources to support the Buzz and the ongoing activities.

Questions/Comments - None

Buzz Ware Village Report Accepted

11.8 Budget - Gary Quinton

Budget Committee is seeking nominees for three open positions in March. Denise Nordheimer, Gary Quinton, and Bill Theis all completed their terms. We welcome anyone who wishes to join the committee, and if you have a penchant for math or accounting, we certainly look forward to you self-nominating to the Registration committee. This committee has seasonal work and our meetings are less than 6 for the entire year.

The committee will be meeting between now and the upcoming March town meeting to provide a 3 year look ahead on the budget. The three year look ahead is used by the Assessors as they use the town's forecast for funds by committee. Thus, some committee chairpersons may hear from the budget committee in the coming weeks to forecast upcoming year's expenses.

Respectfully submitted,

Gary Quinton, Budget Committee Chair

Questions/Comments - None

Budget Report Accepted

11.9 Audit - Helen “Cookie” Ohlson

The Audit Committee met on January 19 to perform vouchering and a random audit on Arden's books and accounts. All was found to be in order.

Cookie Ohlson, Audit Chair

Questions/Comments - None

Audit Report Accepted

11.10 Archives – Lisa Mullinax

The mission of the Archives Committee is to collect and exhibit materials and artifacts related to the Ardens and to share Ardens history and culture with the community.

The Arden Craft Shop Museum is open Wednesday, 7:30 to 9 p.m., Sunday 2 to 3 p.m. and by appointment.

Our current exhibit, “There’s a Gild For That,” a celebration of past and present Gilds of the Arden Club, will continue through Fall 2017.

In November, we hosted a group from Newman University that was studying diverse cultures. You don’t have to be on the Archives Committee to help out with one of our exciting projects:

Photo collection. We seek help in scanning and cataloging the Archives photo collection, so that we can add to our online searchable database of images. (Over one thousand and growing.) We will be scheduling training. Let me know if you’re interested.

Oral history. One of our most important projects is preserving the experiences of people who have called the Ardens home. Do you know someone who should be interviewed? Someone who’s already been interviewed who should be interviewed again? Or are you interested in conducting interviews? It’s as easy as sitting down for a cup of coffee with one of our fascinating residents and hearing some wonderful stories. No previous reporting experience or note taking skill required. The Archives has digital recording equipment, starter questions, everything you need. Ask us about being part of our oral history project.

And finally, we would like to acknowledge the outstanding contributions of our curator, Kelsey Ransick, who will be relocating. Thank you, Kelsey, for your dedication, your enthusiasm and joy, for all your work in organizing the collection, updating our policies, and for bringing us into the

21st Century with our website and blog. The Committee is looking for another Museum Studies professional to be our new curator, but Kelsey leaves some big shoes to fill.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Mullinax

Questions/Comments

Jeff suggest maybe ACRA would be interested in oral history

Archives Report accepted

12.0 Old Business – None

13.0 New Business

Carol DiGiovanni – Carol did not understand Jeff's comments in his Communications Report about Robert's Rules of Order. Jeff – reiterated that he is working with the Parliamentarian to better understand how we keep minutes for the Town Assembly and our processes within Town Assembly to make sure it matches up as close as possible. It is an independent Parliamentarian who has also been helping Ardencroft.

Carol DiGiovanni – Asked Jeff to explain the second part of his Communications Report about FOIA.

Jeff - FOIA applies to all governments. FOIA has some things that we should be doing and generally we do them very well. As we get more volunteers and as FOIA is the overarching piece, Jeff wanted to speak to the Depart of Justice to understand how FOIA laws apply to the Village of Arden. The Village of Arden is not a representative government. It is a Town Assembly government. FOIA rules are really there to protect citizens with a representative government; so, your representative is not acting outside of what you should know. It is for transparency. Jeff wanted to know are there boundaries for the Village of Arden that may alleviate some of the burdens that the volunteers have to face.

Carol DiGiovanni – volunteers? Jeff - Volunteers are our elected officers

Carol DiGiovanni - How many FOIA do you receive per year? Not many. Last year one request and one complaint.

Jeff - Point of Order - this discussion is not considered New Business. In order not to hold up the meeting, Jeff offered to discuss Carol's questions after the Town Assembly meeting. Carol agreed. Carol DiGiovanni – Provided written statement including three lines of the Act of Reincorporate. (Copy -Attachment following minutes).

14.0 Good & Welfare

Mike Curtis - The classes that were held by the Trustees and the Arden Georgist had 27 completions and 2 elected officials (Barbara Macklem and Ray Seigfried).

Jeff - Thanked Cecilia Vore who spent a considerable amount of time with his son, Jackson, to help him prepare for assessment to Cab Calloway. He expressed how very grateful they are. But it also reminds him of the community at large: how much neighbors, friends and community members help each other. It makes him happy to live here. That's one example of many.

15.0 Motion to Adjourn 9:57 P.M.

Respectfully Submitted-

Elizabeth Resko, Village of Arden Town Secretary

Postcard reminders and agenda will be mailed prior to next Town Assembly meeting

All are welcome hither

Please note: Those attending Town Meetings are eligible to vote are 18 years of age, or older

Attachments Follow

Trustees of Arden**Town Meeting January 23, 2017**

Assets	31-Dec-16
Arden B&L (Reserve)	\$ 138,270.78
Arden B&L (Bequest)	\$ 28,398.91
M & T Checking Account	\$ 6,784.07
Vanguard Bequest Funds	\$ 206,697.61
Vanguard	\$ 429.23
Total Cash & Equity	\$ 380,580.60

Land Rent Receivable	\$ 21,222.76
Total Current Assets	\$ 401,803.36

Income

Land Rent & Related Income	\$ 632,924.04
Investment Income-All Sources	\$ 36,715.12
Total Income	\$ 669,639.16

Expenses

Village of Arden	\$ 159,179.31
New Castle County	\$ 439,890.17
Rebates	\$ 41,193.34
Demolition	\$ 15,810.00
Expenses for leasehold sale	\$ 5,735.69
General Trust Administration	\$ 14,796.64
Total Expenses	\$ 676,605.15

Trustees of Arden**Town Meeting January 23,
2017**

Assets**31-Dec-16**

Arden B&L (Reserve)\$138,270.78Arden B&L (Bequest)28,398.91M & T Checking Account6,784.07Vanguard Bequest Funds206,697.61Vanguard429.23**Total Cash & Equity****\$380,580.60**Land Rent Receivable21,222.76**Total Current Assets****\$401,803.36**

Income

Land Rent & Related Income\$632,924.04Investment Income-All Sources36,715.12**Total Income****\$669,639.16**

Expenses

Village of Arden\$159,179.31New Castle County439,890.17Rebates41,193.34Demolition15,810.00Expenses for leasehold sale5,735.69General Trust Administration14,796.64**Total Expenses****\$676,605.15**

UNAUDITED
FOR DISTRIBUTION
AND DISCUSSION
PURPOSES ONLY
FOR ARDEN
TOWN ASSEMBLY

**Village of Arden
Statement of Financial Activity
As of January 22, 2017**

	3/25/16 - 1/22/17	Budget	% to Budget	
Revenue				
4000 - General Funds - Village	148,000	201,776	73.35%	
* 4100 - Donations, grants, rentals	4,287	-		
+ 4510 - Franchise Fee Receipts	14,696	23,050	63.76%	
4900 - Interest Income	368	-		
Total Revenue	167,352	224,826	74.44%	
Expenses				balance left in budget
6000 - Payroll & Payroll Taxes	10,121	13,298	76.11%	3,177
++ 6300 - Administrative Expenses	16,461	42,642	38.60%	26,181
8000 - Committee Expenses - see detail below	48,650	77,910	62.44%	29,260
8010 - Contributions & Donations	6,450	6,450	100.00%	-
Contingency Fund	-	10,000	0.00%	10,000
8030 - Trash Service	48,586	58,350	83.27%	9,764
9000 - Debt Service	13,483	16,176	83.35%	2,693
Total Expense	143,752	224,826	63.94%	81,074
Surplus (deficit)	23,600	-		
Committee	Actuals YTD	Budget		balance left in budget
Advisory	-	200	0.00%	200
Archives	1,698	1,800	94.31%	102
Assessors	-	50	0.00%	50
Budget	27	75	36.49%	48
Buzz Ware - general operating support	-	5,000	0.00%	5,000
Buzzware renovation fund	2,000	2,000	100.00%	-
Civic	35,952	56,135	64.05%	20,183
@ Community Planning	60	500	12.02%	440
Forest	4,733	6,000	78.89%	1,267
Playground	1,000	3,000	33.33%	2,000
Registration	652	650	100.34%	(2)
@ Safety	2,527	2,500	101.10%	(27)
	48,650	77,910	62.44%	29,260

* Field Theatre Rentals \$300, Registration donations \$56.25, Arden Club donation to Civic committee \$500, Forest Committee grant \$3,430

+ Comcast = \$3,147.78 Verizon = \$3,679.38, Suez Water \$7,869.00

++ includes insurance premiums of 11,728 vs. budget of \$11,330

@ Community planning shifted \$500 from its budget to the safety committee's budget

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	Special Village Funds					
	BuzzWare			Buzz renovation	Hamburger Lecture Series	J. Schroeder Bequest
	3/25/16 - 1/22/17	Budget	% to Budget	3/25/16 - 1/22/17	3/25/16 - 1/22/17	3/25/16 - 1/22/17
Revenue						
4000 - General Funds - Village	2,400	-		2,000	-	-
4010 - Donations	2,459	-		2,000	-	-
4100 - Program Revenue	5,925	10,400	56.97%	-	-	-
4300 - MSA Grant	-	-		-	-	-
4400 - Rentals	18,140	29,000	62.55%	7,556	-	-
4520 - Vacant Property Registration Fees	-	-		-	-	-
4900 - Interest & Dividend Income	21	-	0.00%	-	-	2,290
9900 - Unrealized gains on Investments	-	-	0.00%	-	-	14,017
Total Revenue	28,945	39,400	73.47%	11,556	-	16,307
Expenses						
6000 - Payroll & Payroll Taxes	16,889	22,600	74.73%	-	-	-
6300 - Administrative Expenses	486	315	154.17%	-	-	-
6310 - Janitorial Supplies	681	1,500	45.41%	-	-	-
7020 - Utilities (gas, electric, water, telephone)	3,377	4,750	71.10%	-	-	-
7060 - Licenses/Permits/Fees/AlarmMonitoring	670	1,102	60.76%	-	-	-
7600 - Repairs & Maintenance	1,214	2,000	60.72%	11,403	-	-
8000 - Program Expenses	5,937	7,500	79.16%	-	-	5,981
Total Expense	29,255	39,767	73.57%	11,403	-	5,981
Surplus (Deficit)	(310)	(367)		153	-	10,327
Carried forward fund balance				21,517	2,148	396,456
Fund balance				21,670	2,148	406,783

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	Vacant Dwelling Fund	Buckingham Green Fund	Labyrinth Fund	Playground Mound	Trustees Donation
	3/25/16 - 1/22/17	3/25/16 - 1/22/17	3/25/16 - 1/22/17	3/25/16 - 1/22/17	3/25/16 - 1/22/17
Revenue					
4000 - General Funds - Village	-	-	-	-	-
4010 - Donations	-	-	-	3,702	6,079
4100 - Program Revenue	-	-	-	-	-
4300 - MSA Grant	-	-	-	-	-
4400 - Rentals	-	-	-	-	-
4520 - Vacant Property Registration Fees	1,700	-	-	-	-
4900 - Interest & Dividend Income	-	-	-	-	-
9900 - Unrealized gains on Investments	-	-	-	-	-
Total Revenue	1,700	-	-	3,702	6,079
Expenses					
6000 - Payroll & Payroll Taxes	-	-	-	-	-
6300 - Administrative Expenses	-	-	-	-	-
6310 - Janitorial Supplies	-	-	-	-	-
7020 - Utilities (gas, electric, water, telephone)	-	-	-	-	-
7060 - Licenses/Permits/Fees/Alarm Monitoring	-	-	-	-	-
7600 - Repairs & Maintenance	-	-	-	-	-
8000 - Program Expenses	-	23,890	1,281	7,702	-
Total Expense	-	23,890	1,281	7,702	-
Surplus (Deficit)	1,700	(23,890)	(1,281)	(4,000)	6,079
Carried forward fund balance	19,531	62,795	1,281	4,000	-
Fund balance	21,231	38,905	0	-	6,079

January 23, 2017
Town Assembly

It has come to my attention recently that some 'events' within the Village of Arden appear to have occurred outside the Laws set forth in the Act to Reincorporate the Village of Arden (aka: The Charter of Arden).

For this reason, I would like to read three sentences from this Act into the record of this Town Assembly. I will speak slowly to insure everything I say is recorded exactly as I say it, and I will give a copy of this reading to the Town Secretary.

Under Name and General Powers; Section 1(b): ALL powers of the Village, whether expressed or implied, shall be exercised AS PRESCRIBED BY THIS ACT. If NO procedure or manner of exercise be prescribed herein, the same shall be exercised as prescribed by an APPROPRIATE ORDINANCE, or RESOLUTION OF THE TOWN ASSEMBLY OF ARDEN.

Structure of Government; Section 4: The government of the Village and the exercise of ALL powers conferred by this Act, except as otherwise provided herein, shall be vested in the TOWN ASSEMBLY OF THE VILLAGE OF ARDEN, referred to herein as the 'Town Assembly'. The Town Assembly shall consist of ALL the residents of Arden.

Signed:

Dated:



January 23, 2017